| MEMBER: | **Barry Erwin** | PROPOSAL# | **Erwin # 06** | **REFERRED TO AG on:** | **AGDNES** |

| SUBJECT: | **BESE - Dropout Prevention Programs** | **DATE REPORTED BY AG:** | **November 19, 2009** | **REPORT:** | **Favorable** |

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ DATE: _____

RECOMMENDATION: Require all school districts to replace lower performing dropout prevention programs with strategies modeled after Jobs for America's Graduate (JAG) and fund such programs through existing revenue including the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funding. Tie any state funding of dropout prevention programs to performance.

Summary Description/Nature of Change	Key/Implementation Responsibilities	Need	Action Needed	Benefit/Saving	Done/ Study
Require all school districts to replace lower performing dropout prevention programs with strategies modeled after Jobs for America's Graduate (JAG) and fund such programs through existing revenue including MFP funding. Tie any state funding of dropout prevention programs to performance.	Dept. of Education (DOE) and BESE.	Only 65.9% of students graduate on time from high school in Louisiana. DOE is working closely with local school districts, other state agencies, and business and industry groups to increase graduation rates, reduce dropout rates, and place students on a path to success after graduation. Two programs aimed at providing successful interventions to struggling students include JAG and the Educational Mission to Prepare Louisiana's Youth (EMPLoY). JAG is a nationally recognized and successful program based on a national model that assists students still enrolled in school (as well as students who have already dropped out) in obtaining their high school diploma or GED. EMPLoY was launched as a pilot in January 2009 in 14 districts. Based on the JAG model, EMPLoY participants, age 16 and older, have opted out of the traditional school setting and have enrolled in the state's GED/Options program. EMPLoY provides participants with job training through dual enrollment courses and/or industry-based certifications, intense training in basic skills to help them succeed in passing the GED, soft skills training and Work Keys assessment to earn a Work Ready Certificate. The projected graduation rate for participants in the program is 70%.	BESE to make appropriate changes in MFP formula and policies and receive legislative approval. Recommendation should be phased-in.	Increase retention; increase literacy and numeracy. Improved workforce for employers and opportunities for graduates. Current funding is $3.3 million using TANF dollars.	Implementation could begin next fiscal year.